



Department of Energy

ROCKY FLATS OFFICE
P.O. BOX 928
GOLDEN, COLORADO 80402-0928

JUL 3 1991

91-DOE-5277

Gary W. Baughman, Unit Leader
Hazardous Waste Facilities
Hazardous Materials Waste Management Division
Colorado Department of Health
4210 East 11th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80220

Dear Mr. Baughman:

The Agreement in Principle (AIP) between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the State of Colorado dated June 28, 1989, requires cleanup of the Solar Evaporation Ponds at the Rocky Flats Plant. We are currently working to remove the liquids and sludges remaining in the ponds in an expeditious manner.

In order to expedite the cleanup of the ponds, various techniques are being considered to enhance evaporation of the water in the ponds. One technique is the use of portable evaporators to help remove water from the 207A and 207B Solar Evaporation Ponds. The portable evaporators are also needed to handle water that is currently discharged into the 207B North Pond from a trench interceptor sump that is located north of the ponds. On December 21, 1990, we submitted a request for change to interim status to allow operation of the portable evaporators.

In order to prevent additional accumulation of water in the 207B North Pond, surge tanks are proposed to be built in the vicinity of the ponds to temporarily store the trench interceptor water before it is sent to the portable evaporators. A more detailed description of the information pertinent to trench water surge tanks is provided in the enclosure to this letter.

In a meeting between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Colorado Department of Health (CDH) and the DOE that was held in January, 1991, it was agreed that use of the temporary surge tanks would require a letter to CDH requesting a change to interim status. In addition, it was agreed that the request should include information that would be required for an "interim measure." Your letter dated June 24, 1991, stated that the "change to interim status" approach is not appropriate and the "interim measure/interim remedial action (IM/IRA)" process should be used to permit the operation of the portable evaporators and surge tanks. Therefore, the enclosure to this letter provides draft IM/IRA information pertinent to the portable evaporators and surge tanks.

ADMIN RECORD

A-DU04-000112

The portable evaporators and trench water surge tanks are a critical part of the Solar Evaporation Pond cleanup effort. To minimize any impact that the ponds may have on the environment, we desire to install and operate the evaporators and surge tanks as soon as possible. Therefore, we would appreciate your timely response to this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Lukow of my staff at 966-4561.

Sincerely,



David P. Simonson
Assistant Manager
for Environmental Management

Enclosure

cc w/o Enclosure:

B. Barry, CDH
F. Dowsett, CDH
M. Hestmark, EPA Region VIII
T. Lukow, DOE/RFO
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